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COUNTY BOROUGH OF SOUTH SHIELDS



ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
School Medical Officer  
for the year 1950

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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE  
EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the work of the School Health Service for the year 1950. This is my 29th annual report and the 42nd of the series.

The year was marked by the breakdown of the dental service. The school dentist resigned early in the year leaving only the half time services of Mr. Reid. In normal years one full-time and one half time dentist is barely sufficient to carry on the school dental service, particularly if the aim is to conserve and improve the children's teeth instead of extracting them. But for the generosity of Mr. Blunt, a local dental surgeon, who gave one session a week to the school clinic, the position would have been much worse. No child, however, who attended on account of toothache failed to be relieved.

A great part of the time of the School Medical Officers has been taken up with the ascertainment of educationally subnormal, maladjusted and handicapped pupils and arranging for their appropriate treatment.

On the whole the health of the pupils was satisfactory. There were only ten deaths among children of school age and not a single death from tuberculosis in that age group. In the report will be found a table showing the marked decrease in the number of deaths and a table showing the decrease in the incidence of and deaths from tuberculosis among children of school age during the last thirty years.

Fewer children were immunised against diphtheria than in former years. Nevertheless 86 per cent of children of school age have been protected. If the disease is to be kept within its present limits, and further reduced, it is important that every child should be protected. For the fourth consecutive year there were no deaths among school children from diphtheria.

There is much less delay in providing children with spectacles. I have to acknowledge the co-operation of the Clerk of the Executive Council in this regard. The co-operation between the Hospital Service and the School Health Service, in the interest of the children, is much appreciated.

I have pleasure in recording my thanks to the Committee for their consideration of the many matters I have had to place before them, to my staff for their willing assistance during the year and to Dr. Levy for his help in the compilation of this report.

W. CAMPBELL LYONS,  
SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER.

## SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE.

### ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER.

#### **Staff.**

The establishment of the School Health Service consists of two whole-time and one part-time assistant medical officers ; one whole-time and one part-time dental surgeon ; the equivalent of seven full-time school nurses ; one dental attendant and one nursing assistant.

During almost the whole of 1950 there was only one half-time dentist, the full-time dentist having resigned to take up another appointment. This is totally inadequate to deal with the school dental work. One local dental surgeon devoted one session a week to the school dental clinic, and the service is indebted to him for his help.

The service is under the administrative control of the Medical Officer of Health who is the Chief School Medical Officer. The Deputy Medical Officer is Deputy School Medical Officer.

#### **Co-ordination.**

The work of the School Health Service is fully co-ordinated with other branches of the Public Health Department. The Clerical work is centralised in the Health Department where there are three clerks specially employed in the various school clinics and in arranging routine medical inspections, special examinations and appointments for treatment, other attendances at the clinics, diphtheria immunisation, etc. Other administrative and clerical work incidental to the School Health Service is carried out by various members of the Health Department staff.

There is complete co-ordination between the school health service and the Council's other health services.

### **THE SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE IN RELATION TO SCHOOLS MAINTAINED BY THE AUTHORITY.**

	<i>Special schools.</i>	<i>Other schools.</i>
Number of children on registers at the end of 1950 .....	263	15,444
Average attendance for the year .....	234	14.064
Percentage of average attendance for the year .....	88.97	91.06
Number of schools .....	2	27
Number of departments .....	2	50
Number of nursery classes and accommodation .....	2 classes with accom- modation for 60.	

## MEDICAL INSPECTION.

Number of children examined at periodic and other inspections at maintained primary and secondary schools :—

### 1. PERIODIC MEDICAL INSPECTIONS.

	<i>Number of parents present.</i>	<i>Number of children inspected.</i>
Entrants .....	1,801	1,881
Second age group .....	918	1,499
Third age group .....	578	1,331
Other periodic inspections .....	—	—
 Total .....	 3,297	 4,711
 =====	 =====	 =====

### 2. OTHER INSPECTIONS.

Number of special inspections .....	4,021
Number of re-inspections .....	4,021
 Total .....	 8,042
 =====	 =====

### General Condition.

The following is a classification of the general condition of the children examined at routine medical inspections.

	<i>Number.</i>	
Good .....	2,104	44.7 per cent.
Fair .....	2,442	51.8 do.
Poor .....	165	3.5 do.

The general standard of nutrition was again maintained during the year. It is pleasing to record a further reduction in the number regarded as "poor."

### Cleanliness.

Two routine surveys were carried out throughout all schools in the town by the school nurses. The returns this year show some improvement on the findings of the previous year's examinations.

14,664 children were examined at the first survey and 15,214 at the second. The percentage of children found to be unclean at the first inspection amounted to 19.0%, and at the second 18.1%.

This compares with the previous three years, showing a gradual improvement.

Year.	1st survey.	2nd survey.
1947.....	22.9%	21.4%
1948.....	21.2%	20.1%
1949.....	19.9%	19.8%

An analysis of the figures showed that the best returns from the infants' departments varied from 3.6% in the best to 33.9% in the worst. Boys' departments came next with 4.9% in the best to 25.8% in the worst. As can be expected, the figures for the girls' schools are less favourable varying from 6.6% in the best to 55.0% in the worst. It can be seen that there is still much to be done in this direction, and although the nurses may carry out their work carefully and conscientiously the active co-operation of the parents is essential before any noticeable improvement can be effected.

D.D.T. preparations and special steel combs were on many occasions used effectively to clear up the bad cases.

The subject of cleanliness is receiving special attention. In addition to the measures adopted in previous years it had been decided to send to the head teacher of each department a list showing the number of children who require attention. The school nurse also gives the head teacher the names of really bad cases. This has led to no little agitation in certain directions. Meetings have been arranged and special talks have been given to the pupils by the teaching staff. All this has helped to make the schools "Cleanliness Conscious." Improvement has already been noted among senior pupils.

### MEDICAL TREATMENT.

Number of children attending the school clinic in 1950	3,043
Number of these children treated.....	2,006

The total number of attendances was 10,740 as compared with 12,529 in 1949.

### Diseases of the Skin.

586 children received treatment as follows :—

Impetigo .....	52
Ringworm (scalp) .....	2
Ringworm (body) .....	21
Scabies .....	18
Other skin diseases .....	493

There is a definite fall in the numbers attending for clinic treatment, but it is reasonable to assume that a much larger number of children now go to their own Doctor under the Health Service Scheme especially in the case of the more serious illnesses.

Apart from ringworm of the skin there is a drop in all the skin affections requiring treatment. The use of penicillin preparations for treating impetigo and allied conditions, clears up the affections rapidly and so reduces the number of clinic attendances. The fall in the incidence of scabies is remarkable, when it is remembered that in the peak period of 1942, 800 cases were dealt with. The welcome abatement of these very contagious skin diseases is shown in the figures for the past ten years :—

<i>Year.</i>	<i>No. of cases of Scabies treated.</i>
1941 .....	586
1942 .....	800
1943 .....	618
1944 .....	338
1945 .....	278
1946 .....	168
1947 .....	95
1948 .....	61
1949 .....	37
1950 .....	18

### **Eye Diseases, Defective Vision and Squint.**

During the year, 746 cases were submitted for refraction. 797 had spectacles prescribed, of which 669 were supplied by the Local Executive Council. In addition, 93 children with squint were referred to the Ophthalmic Department of the Ingham Infirmary for Orthoptic treatment or operation.

211 children attended the clinic for treatment or observation for other eye conditions.

The delay in the supply of glasses is now much less and the majority of children receive spectacles in reasonable time. The type of cases regarded as deserving of priority (they are indicated in last year's report) receive special attention.

## Diseases and Defects of the Ear, Nose and Throat.

Many cases were again dealt with by the Authority's ear, nose and throat surgeon. He attended 41 sessions at the school clinic during the year. 287 children were referred to him by the school medical officers. These children made 484 attendances and 145 were referred by the surgeon for operations for middle ear disease, enlarged tonsils and adenoids, and sinus and antrum infections.

In all, 491 school children received operative treatment at the General Hospital under the Education Authority's scheme in addition to 148 children who received other forms of treatment for diseases of the ear, nose and throat at the clinic.

## Orthopaedic and Postural Defects.

During 1950, 127 cases were referred to the Orthopaedic Department of the Ingham Infirmary.

The following is a summary of the cases sent for treatment :—

Foot deformities .....	77
Knee deformities .....	6
Defects of Posture .....	9
Various forms of paralysis .....	7
Ganglion of wrist .....	2
Torticollis .....	7
Fractures .....	3
Miscellaneous .....	16
<hr/>	
Total .....	127
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The type of case referred for orthopaedic opinion was similar to that of the previous year. The largest number of cases referred was for foot defects, chiefly flat feet with weakness of ankles. Of the 127 cases seen, 20 did not require any special treatment, 12 required treatment as inpatients in hospital and 81 attended as outpatients for physiotherapy. The provision of special shoes was advised in 39 cases.

## Maladjusted Children.

20 children were referred to the Child Guidance Clinic in Sunderland during 1950. 16 were maladjusted, 3 were regarded as educationally sub-normal and 1 was an enuretic. A number of these cases were sent by the Probation Officer, having been before the courts for stealing. By careful handling and an understanding of the child's grievance and background, much can be achieved to

help him to become a useful citizen. We are again grateful for the valuable reports given by Dr. Hinds, and the able assistance of Miss Stirling and the staff of the Sunderland Education Authority Child Guidance Centre.

### Speech Therapy.

Mrs. I. M. Salkeld, L.G.F.M., A.L.C.M. (Eloc.), L.C.S.T., Speech Therapist, reports as follows :—

#### *School Visiting.*

Children found with speech difficulty—300 (Boys 217 : Girls 83). These were made up as follows :—

	<i>Stammer.</i>	<i>Speech Defect.</i>	<i>Stammer and Speech Defect.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Boys .....	80	119	18	217
Girls .....	17	62	4	83
	—	—	—	—
Total .....	97	181	22	300
	—	—	—	—

Advice and treatment was given in all these cases.

As many of the older children have overcome their speech difficulties, there was more opportunity of helping the infant school children.

#### *Intensive Treatment at Speech Centre.*

Number of courses : 5.

	<i>Stammer.</i>	<i>Speech Defect.</i>	<i>Stammer and Speech Defect.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Boys .....	14	6	13	33
Girls .....	4	7	—	11
	—	—	—	—
Total .....	18	13	13	44
	—	—	—	—

#### *Results.*

A. (Speech under control) .....	27
B. (Speech under control, but requiring further part-time treatment) .....	10
C. (Speech improved, but requiring further intensive treatment) .....	7
	—
Total .....	44
	—

Children with severe speech difficulties have received intensive speech treatment at Wesley Street until mid-summer, 1950, and after that, at Cleadon Park. The move was necessitated by the taking over of the Wesley Street Centre by the South Shields Marine and Technical College.

The joy of children gaining confident speech control in a calm happy atmosphere has been most rewarding. The decoration of the new Centre has been conducive to good results.

Understanding co-operation with the Education Authority and Teachers, has aided greatly, especially in difficult cases of speech.

### **DENTAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT.**

The following is a report on the work carried out by Mr. J. L. Reid, L.D.S. :—

In the year under review the School Dental Service has been without a full-time Officer. The Clinics have been carried on by a half-time Dentist and one session per week has been worked by a Dentist from outside. This has resulted in only thirteen sessions being worked per fortnight as against thirty-three in the previous year. So that all sessions might be worked at the chair side, the Dental Examinations at the schools have been carried out by Dr. Bolt of the School Health Service.

This reduction in the number of clinics worked is reflected in the over-all figures of treatment for the year. Figures in brackets are those of previous year for purpose of comparison.

Total number of children inspected 8,665 (13,712) and of this number 3,212 (5,814) or 37.06% (42.47%) needed treatment. Of this latter number 1,892 (3,504) or 58.94% (60.2%) were actually treated, necessitating a total of 2,187 (4,291) attendances. During 1950, there were 432 fillings, 477 permanent extractions, 4,114 deciduous extractions and 61 other operations. 93 children had their teeth removed under a general anaesthetic.

### **Tuberculosis.**

There was a decrease in respiratory and an increase in non-respiratory types of tuberculosis as compared with 1949. The figures below are a summary of the notifications of tuberculosis received by the medical officer of health, or otherwise ascertained.

Age-Group.	1949		1950	
	Respiratory		Respiratory	
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
5—9 years .....	14	6	9	6
10—14 years .....	9	3	4	5
Total .....	32		24	
	Non-Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
5—9 years .....	5	2	5	2
10—14 years .....	—	1	—	4
Total .....	8		11	

For the first time on record, no deaths occurred in these age groups from tuberculosis during the year.

The following table shows the average yearly notifications of and deaths from tuberculosis among children of school age in five-year periods since 1921 :—

	Respiratory.		Non-respiratory.	
	Notifications.	Deaths.	Notifications.	Deaths.
1921-25 .....	62	17	62	14
1926-30 .....	49	13	71	14
1931-35 .....	35	11	65	16
1936-40 .....	21	3	40	6
1941-45 .....	25	2	30	5
1946-50 .....	27	1	15	3

### Mass Radiography.

Arrangements have been made for the mass radiography of children about to leave school and the teaching staff. It is hoped to begin this work early in 1951.

### Health Visiting.

The health visitors paid 755 visits to homes of school children to ascertain whether the necessary treatment was being obtained, 34 visits in connection with uncleanliness, 634 visits after surgical and dental treatment, 136 in connection with orthopaedic cases, 342 regarding educationally subnormal children, 42 in connection with child guidance cases, 97 regarding physically handicapped children, and 3 other visits.

In addition, 165 visits were paid to the schools for routine medical inspection apart from 472 visits to the schools in connection with cleanliness surveys. (This is in addition to visits paid to the homes regarding tuberculosis, infant welfare and infectious diseases).

The health visitors and school nurses also attended 626 sessions at the general school clinics, 93 sessions at the dental clinics, 183 sessions for artificial sunlight treatment, daily sessions for the treatment of scabies, 85 sessions for immunisation, 42 sessions at the ear, nose and throat clinic ; and 9 special clinics for removal of warts ; apart from attendance at child welfare and other clinics.

### Ultra Violet Ray Therapy.

115 children of school age made 1,971 attendances for treatment by ultra-violet radiation, including treatment by the Kromayer Lamp.

The following is a summary of the conditions treated :—

	Im- proved	Ceased attend- ing	Trans- ferred for treat- ment	Still attend- ing	Total
Debility.....	44	3	—	16	63
Bronchitis .....	17	1	—	8	26
Cervical adenitis .....	1	—	1	—	2
Asthma .....	5	—	—	1	6
Chorea .....	2	—	—	—	2
Alopecia .....	9	—	—	2	11
Rickets .....	3	—	—	—	3
Chilblains .....	1	—	—	—	1
Anaemia .....	1	—	—	—	1
	83	4	1	27	115

It is evident that the parents now realise the usefulness of this treatment as a much smaller number, than previously, ceased attending before their treatment was completed.

### Diphtheria Immunisation.

90 children of school age were immunised during the past year by the medical staff of the Health Department or by private medical attendants as under :—

<i>Age.</i>	<i>Number.</i>	<i>Age.</i>	<i>Number.</i>
5 .....	29	10 .....	19
6 .....	16	11 .....	8
7 .....	6	12 .....	2
8 .....	4	13 .....	3
9 .....	3	14 .....	—

In addition, 1,433 children under five years were immunised during 1950.

It was estimated that at the end of 1950, 86 per cent of the school children in the Borough had been immunised, and 59 per cent of children under five years of age. In addition, 1,067 school children received reinforcing or "boosting" injections during the year. Immunisation was suspended from 8th July until 14th September owing to the prevalence of poliomyelitis.

### Asthma.

The following is a report from Miss M. Barrass, M.C.S.P., Physiotherapist at the South Shields General Hospital, who holds a weekly session at the School Clinic for children suffering from asthma.

This class has continued weekly throughout the year, the patients being those suffering from disease of the respiratory tract. These consist mainly of children suffering from asthma. Other diagnoses include bronchial asthma, chronic bronchitis, bronchiectasis, mouth breathing, frequent colds and poorly developed chests.

Patients are as usual referred by the School Medical Officers, the Tuberculosis Medical Officer and the Ear, Nose and Throat Specialist.

Technique and general principles of treatment remain the same. Co-operation of parents and children remains good. Parents are encouraged to attend the first classes so as to supervise more efficiently the home exercises.

As before a weekly weight record together with an attendance and progress record is kept for the use of the School Medical Officer who reviews the cases at intervals.

*Attendance.*

Number of children treated .....	41 (25 boys, 16 girls).
Variation in ages .....	5—15 years.
Number of classes held .....	41
Total number of attendances .....	382
Average number in class .....	9
Number of new patients .....	20
Patients failing to attend .....	8
(Some patients ceased to attend on attaining school leaving age.)	
Patients referred to or by Tuberculosis Medical Officer .....	7
Patients attending Open Air School .....	8
Patients referred to or by Ear, Nose and Throat Specialist .....	6

*Results.*

Patients discharged.....	10
Patients improved and attending monthly .....	4

**Physical Education.**

The following is the report of the Physical Education Organisers, Mr. W. Yielder and Miss J. W. Thomson :—

For the year 1950 we can write of an event in this subject as opposed to the usual routine. 1950 being the centenary year the schools as one of their contributions to the celebrations gave a Display of Physical Training and Dancing in Westoe Cricket Field in July. About 2,000 children took part, every school in the borough being represented, with the exception of the Infant Departments who with much reluctance, had to be excluded owing to lack of space. It was felt that the citizens of South Shields could be justly proud of the physique and appearance of their children. The programme consisted of mixed Physical Training by junior children, mixed Folk Dancing by junior children, senior boys Physical Training and Games and senior girls Physical Training and Folk Dancing. The weather was, unfortunately, not very co-operative but despite this about 6,000 people watched the display. The Organisers were greatly indebted for the most generous help and co-operation from Head Teachers and Teachers.

The girls' Netball had a most successful season and for the first time acted as hosts at the Inter-town Tournament. This was a most enjoyable morning and we were particularly thrilled that in the presence of the Mayor and Director of Education, the girls of Cleadon Park Secondary Modern School were the winners. Dean Road Girls' Secondary Modern School also took part in the final. The Schools' Football Association were able to report a further increase in the number of teams participating in their competitions and it was necessary to form two divisions of the Junior League. There is now a record number of 40 school teams who are members of the Association. The number of teams taking part in the matches of the Schools' Cricket Association has also increased, and in spite of poor weather the full programme of matches was completed. We are pleased that more junior schools are organising Sports Days on the recreation fields in the borough and we hope that this will extend still further.

The Climbing Apparatus which was installed at the Horsley Hill Junior Schools is proving most popular and successful and we are particularly pleased that the committee has approved the extension of this plan so that 7 more schools will be equipped with some form of this apparatus by the end of March, 1951.

The number of swimming awards for the year was very satisfactory considering that practically no swimming was taught during the Easter term as the baths were closed until within 3 weeks from the end. 1,374 Local Education Authority certificates were awarded as follows :—

(a) *Education Authority Certificates.*

Honours .....	48
1st Class .....	206
2nd Class .....	302
3rd Class .....	520
4th Class .....	298

1,374

The number of Life Saving awards gained during the year actually showed a large increase and created a

record for the post-war years with a total of 364 awards, which included 76 Bronze Crosses, the highest award which can be gained by a boy of 15 years of age, made up as follows :—

(b) *Royal Life Saving Society Awards.*

Bar to Award of Merit.....	1
Award of Merit .....	5
Bronze Cross .....	76
Bar to Bronze Cross .....	1
Bronze Medallion .....	133
Intermediate Certificate ....	148
	—
	364
	—

As a result of this the South Shields Schools Association have been awarded by the Royal Life Saving Society the John V. Hudson Memorial Cup for the year 1950. This trophy is open for competition to all affiliated organisations in Great Britain and is awarded annually to the Association which obtains the most Bronze Cross awards in each year. This is a notable achievement which reflects great credit on the swimming instructor and the teachers responsible. We were helped in this by the friendly co-operation of the Jarrow Corporation who allowed us to use their Swimming Bath for Life Saving classes while our own was closed. After much discussion it was agreed that it was inadvisable to hold a swimming gala in July owing to the very short time that had been available for swimming and in view of the special Centenary events which were being held.

The usual range of evening classes was held during the year with the addition of a most enjoyable class in Recreational Dance, for which we are fortunate in having an excellent teacher. In conjunction with the Lawn Tennis Association a training course for tennis coaches in schools and clubs was arranged. This was a very successful course taken by one of the L.T.A. professional coaches whose expert guidance was much appreciated.

### School Baths.

The attendance of children at the Baths in school parties during 1950 was as follows :—

Boys .....	22,179
Girls .....	13,457
Total .....	35,636

## PROVISION OF MEALS AND MILK.

Free Meals—Dinner only.

Total number of meals supplied to children during the year 1950—  
334,053.

Number of individual children supplied—1,562.

Total cost (food only)—£9,127 5s. 9d.

Number of Centres—30.

### Free Milk.

Number of individual children supplied—12,500 (approx.)

Total quantity supplied (third pints)—2,469,682—102,903 gallons.

## HANDICAPPED CHILDREN.

The ascertainment of handicapped children has been helped by returns from the School Attendance Department of all children removed from the registers on account of prolonged illness or of children who were otherwise not in attendance at school. The records of the Tuberculosis Clinic have also been searched. 17 children "physically handicapped" are tuberculous cases in hospital or sanatorium.

Some of the children have been receiving education in local hospitals by arrangement with the Education Department and special teachers, these have been excluded from numbers given.

Some who are not suitable for hospital or special school are receiving home tuition from teachers.

A number of delicate children now attending ordinary schools have been withdrawn from the Open Air School by their parents, or for poor attendances. Some have refused Open Air School education.

Only three educationally sub-normal children recommended for special schools are at ordinary schools—all the others are at the special school. That is, the most of the E.S.N. group at ordinary schools are those who have been so recommended by the assistant school medical officers.

The following tables summarise the numbers by age group and disability as in January, 1951 :—

## HANDICAPPED CHILDREN BY AGE-GROUP.

## HANDICAPPED CHILDREN BY DISABILITY.

19

Category Disability.	In Special Schools.		In maintained Primary and Secondary Schools.		In Independent Schools.		Not at School.		Total.	
	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.
(1) Blind .....	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
(2) Partially sighted .....	7	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	7
(3) Deaf .....	10	6	—	—	—	—	2	—	12	6
(4) Partially deaf .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(5) Delicate .....	61	72	2	3	—	—	—	2	63	77
(6) Physically h'c'pd. ....	4	7	10	5	—	—	13	13	27	25
(7) Educ. subnormal .....	52	46	73	47	—	1	—	—	125	95
(8) Maladjusted .....	5	3	32	8	—	—	2	1	39	12
(9) Epileptic .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
 Totals	140	142	117	63	—	1	17	17	274	223

### **Educationally Sub-Normal.**

During 1950, 90 children reported by the head teachers or brought to notice in other ways as very much retarded in educational progress, were specially examined by the assistant school medical officers, whose recommendations are summarised below.

	<i>Boys.</i>	<i>Girls.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
<b>Educationally sub-normal—</b>			
1. For ordinary school with special provision .....	18	17	35
2. For special day school .....	12	16	28
3. For special boarding school .....	4	1	5
Referred to Child Guidance Clinic .....	16	4	20
Referred for further examination .....	—	2	2

Eleven children were recommended to be reported to the Local Health Authority with a view to their being sent to an institution or to being kept under supervision or guardianship.

	<i>Boys.</i>	<i>Girls.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
(a) Under Section 57(3) Education Act, 1944 (incapable of receiving education at school) .....	2	2	4
(b) Under Section 57(5) Education Act, 1944 (requiring supervision on leaving the special school).....	1	6	7

At the end of 1950, there were 220 educationally sub-normal children under the jurisdiction of the Education Committee, as under :—

	<i>Boys.</i>	<i>Girls.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
In special schools .....	52	46	98
In maintained primary or secondary schools .....	73	47	120
In independent schools .....	—	1	1
Not at school .....	—	1	1

All the educationally sub-normal children who have been recommended for special schools have been admitted except one girl at a private school.

### **Special Day (E.S.N.) School.**

The curriculum of the school was the same as described in previous reports. Towards the end of the year, there were 98 children in attendance. 19 were admitted and 25 left. Of those leaving ; two left the district, one was admitted to a residential school, four were recommended for further supervision and the remainder were placed in employment.

### **Cleadon Park Special School (Delicate and Partially Sighted).**

Mr. R. R. H. Phillips, the Head Teacher reports as follows :—

This school accommodates 170 children, 5 classes of 30 Delicate and 1 class of 20 Partially Sighted.

With only one exception (a six year old boy who died during the year) and excluding four children who entered Hospital for further specialised treatment, I have seen during the past twelve months improvement both physical and in attainment of every child in the school, in many cases marked improvements, such as removal of irons from a limb, co-ordination of movement in children who found difficulty in walking unaided (spastic types) and a reduction in the number of attacks in Asthma and Bronchial cases. This I partly attribute to the following : The site (whilst not ideal is a very good one) giving purity of atmosphere : a substantial midday meal augmented by an extra allowance of milk : a rest and relaxation period : light physical training and games : and outdoor work and visits.

Monthly graph charts recording the weights of the pupils tend to prove the value of these assets as it is extremely interesting to note the upward trend in the curve a few weeks after admission.

The clinic at the school is still a very important factor in the school life for daily treatments and medicines and a few children continue to visit both Hospital and Therapist two or three days a week. Here I must mention the prompt and efficient way the Ambulance Service functions in co-operating with a school of this kind.

The diet has improved slightly and twice during the year the children have benefited by the addition of fresh fruit and rose hip syrup to the midday menu. Nevertheless food arriving in containers is not the ideal and it is a very great pity that a school of this type still lacks its own kitchen.

The school has also shown an improvement in general personal cleanliness, especially in verminous heads, although in a few cases it is not up to the desired standard, but nurse, staff and myself continue to "fight the **clean** fight" where children come from poorer home conditions and districts of the town. After Mid-summer, 1951, as an experiment I am introducing "Health Education" as a subject on the curriculum of this school for besides being beneficial to children of this type I feel certain it will aid our cleanliness campaign.

The delicate pupils are classified as follows :—

	<i>Boys.</i>	<i>Girls.</i>
Malnutrition .....	—	1
Anaemia .....	2	1
Non-infectious tuberculosis .....	5	5
Bronchitis and asthma .....	7	5
Heart disease .....	3	2
Bronchitis .....	4	—
Crippling defects .....	1	5
Debility .....	38	60
Chronic blepharitis .....	2	—
Nervous defects .....	1	2
 Totals .....	 63	 81
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

### Partially Sighted Class.

Towards the end of the year there were 14 pupils in attendance, 6 were highly myopic, 3 had congenital cataracts, 2 were affected with corneal opacities, 2 suffered from nystagmus and one was handicapped by choroiditis.

These pupils were examined by Mr. Gowans the Consultant Ophthalmologist who reported favourably on their progress.

This class of child, fortunately, seems to be on the wane. There are only 14 children in the school compared with about 20 two or three years ago. A great change here is the departure from the single medium of black and white, the children being allowed to execute some of the school work in different colours. As well as blackboard and chalk work, and pencil, the children are now allowed to write with pen and ink.

### Higher Education of the Blind.

At the end of the year one blind girl was attending a higher education course.

### Nursery Classes.

The children at the Nursery class at Harton School were examined during the year. Out of 29 examined, 8 were found to have defects as follows :—

Debility .....	1
Squint .....	1
Enuresis .....	1
Other Orthopaedic .....	1
Skin affection .....	2
Tonsils and adenoids .....	2
 Total .....	 8
	=====

### Shoeless Children's Fund.

The Chief Constable informs me that 653 children were supplied with boots or shoes during the year through this Fund, of which he is Honorary Secretary.

### Miscellaneous.

21 children who required certificates for stage performances were examined. All were granted the necessary certificate.

252 children temporarily employed out of school hours were examined in accordance with local Byelaws and passed as fit. In addition two were rejected as unfit.

### Deaths among School Children.

The following is a statement of the causes of death during 1950 of children of school age (5 to 14 years) :—

Causes of Deaths.	Boys.		Girls.		Total.
	5—9 Years.	10—14 Years.	5—9 Years.	10—14 Years.	
Rheumatic endocarditis .....	—	1	—	—	1
Cerebral abscess .....	1	—	—	—	1
Infective hepatitis .....	1	—	—	—	1
Acute leukaemia .....	—	—	—	1	1
Cerebral tumour .....	—	—	—	1	1
Hydrocephalus .....	—	—	1	—	1
Congenital syphilis .....	1	—	—	—	1
Pyogenic meningitis .....	1	—	—	—	1
Road accident .....	1	—	—	—	1
Chronic nephritis .....	—	—	—	1	1
 Totals .....	5	1	1	3	10

The following is a table showing the average annual deaths among school children since 1901 in five year periods :—

*Average Annual  
deaths.*

1901-1905 .....	101
1906-1910 .....	82
1911-1915 .....	94
1916-1920 .....	136
1921-1925 .....	92
1926-1930 .....	88
1931-1935 .....	72
1936-1940 .....	53
1941-1945 .....	36
1946-1950 .....	15
1950 .....	10

### Mental Health Clinic.

Dr. George McCoull, Superintendent of Prudhoe and Monkton Hospital, held 8 sessions during the year and examined 19 cases, chiefly low grade mentally defectives, referred to him by the School Medical Staff, the Duly Authorised Officers and the Medical Officer of the Cottage Homes. The majority of these children were recommended for institutional care but it is very difficult to find accommodation for this class of case. During 1950, 4 cases were admitted to an institution. There are still 24 children as yet not provided for, and are on the waiting list for an institution.

### Paediatric Clinics.

Six children were referred from the School Clinic to the Paediatric Clinic at the General Hospital for investigation and treatment.

**Table 1.—Medical Inspection of Pupils attending Maintained Primary and Secondary Schools.**

**A.—PERIODIC MEDICAL INSPECTIONS.**

Number of Inspections in the prescribed Groups

Entrants .....	1,881
Second Age Group .....	1,499
Third Age Group .....	1,331
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>4,711</b>

Number of other periodic inspections .....

<b>Grand Total .....</b>	<b>4,711</b>
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**B.—OTHER INSPECTIONS.**

Number of Special Inspections .....

Number of Re-Inspections .....

<b>Total .....</b>	<b>8,042</b>
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**C.—PUPILS FOUND TO REQUIRE TREATMENT.**

Number of Individual pupils found at Periodic Medical Inspection to require treatment (excluding Dental Diseases and Infestation with Vermin).

Group. (1)	For defective vision (ex-) cluding squint). (2)	For any of the other conditions recorded in Table II A. (3)	Total individual pupils. (4)
Entrants .....	6	420	374
Second Age Group .....	142	291	406
Third Age Group .....	144	215	322
<b>Total(prescribed groups)</b>	<b>292</b>	<b>926</b>	<b>1,102</b>
Other Periodic Inspec- tions .....	—	—	—
<b>Grand Total .....</b>	<b>292</b>	<b>926</b>	<b>1,102</b>

Table II.

## A.—RETURN OF DEFECTS FOUND BY MEDICAL INSPECTION IN THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1950.

Defect Code No.	Defect or Disease	PERIODIC INSPECTIONS		SPECIAL INSPECTIONS	
		No. of defects.		No. of defects.	
		Requiring treatment	Requiring to be kept under ob- servation but not re- quiring treatment	Requiring treatment	Requiring to be kept under ob- servation, but not re- quiring treatment
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	
4	Skin .....	76	92	563	—
5	Eyes— a. Vision .....	292	455	440	—
	b. Squint .....	99	70	31	—
	c. Other .....	50	21	140	—
6	Ears— a. Hearing .....	26	19	14	—
	b. Otitis Media .....	30	44	12	2
	c. Other .....	13	3	152	14
7	Nose or Throat .....	276	449	235	178
8	Speech .....	2	63	7	—
9	Cervical Glands .....	2	170	25	5
10	Heart and Circulation .....	32	22	4	3
11	Lungs .....	45	46	16	—
12	Developmental— a. Hernia .....	6	18	1	—
	b. Other .....	9	20	—	—
13	Orthopaedic— a. Posture .....	15	51	2	—
	b. Flat foot .....	34	40	8	—
	c. Other .....	98	66	27	25
14	Nervous system— a. Epilepsy .....	—	1	3	—
	b. Other .....	10	17	10	—
15	Psychological— a. Development .....	2	8	—	—
	b. Stability .....	3	22	—	—
16	Other .....	98	112	1,252	69

B.—CLASSIFICATION OF THE GENERAL CONDITION OF PUPILS INSPECTED DURING THE YEAR IN THE AGE GROUPS.

Age Groups.	Number of Pupils Inspected.	A. (Good).		B. (Fair).		C. (Poor).	
		No.	% of col. 2	No.	% of col. 2	No.	% of col. 2
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Entrants .....	1,881	789	41.9	1,033	51.9	59	3.2
Second Age Group	1,499	570	38.0	847	56.5	82	5.5
Third Age Group	1,331	745	56.0	562	42.2	24	1.8
Other Periodic Inspections .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total .....	4,711	2,104	44.7	2,442	51.8	165	3.5

Table III.—Infestation with Vermin.

	1st Survey.	2nd Survey.
(i) Total number of examinations in the schools by the school nurses or other authorised persons (individual children) .....	14,664	15,214
(ii) Total number of <i>individual</i> pupils found to be infested .....	2,788	2,752
(iii) Number of individual pupils in respect of whom cleansing notices were issued (Section 54(2), Education Act, 1944) .....	—	3
(iv) Number of individual pupils in respect of whom cleansing orders were issued (Section 54(3), Education Act, 1944).....	—	3

**Table IV.—Treatment of Pupils attending maintained Primary and Secondary Schools.**

**GROUP I.—DISEASES OF THE SKIN** (excluding uncleanness, for which see Table III).

*Number of cases treated or  
under treatment during the  
year.*

by the  
Authority. Otherwise.

	<i>Number of cases treated by the Authority.</i>	<i>Otherwise.</i>
Impetigo .....	52	—
Other skin diseases .....	493	4
 Total .....	 586	 4
	—	—

## GROUP 2.—EYE DISEASES, DEFECTIVE VISION AND SQUINT.

	<i>Number of cases dealt with by the Authority</i>	<i>Otherwise.</i>
External and other, excluding errors of refraction and squint .....	151	7
Errors of Refraction (including squint) .....	* 746	71
 Total .....	 897	 78
	—	—

  

<i>Number of pupils for whom spectacles were :</i>	
(a) Prescribed .....	* 797
(b) Obtained .....	* 699
 Total .....	 1,466
	—

\* Including cases dealt with under arrangements with the Supplementary Ophthalmic Services.

## GROUP 3.—DISEASES AND DEFECTS OF EAR, NOSE AND THROAT.

	<i>Number of cases treated by the Authority.</i>	<i>Otherwise.</i>
Received operative treatment :—		
(a) for diseases of the ear .....	—	19
(b) for adenoids and chronic tonsillitis .....	—	461
(c) for other nose and throat conditions .....	—	11
Received other forms of treatment	148	—
 Total .....	 148	 491
	—	—

## GROUP 4.—ORTHOPAEDIC AND POSTURAL DEFECTS.

(a) Number treated as in-patients in hospitals .....	46	<i>by the Authority.</i>	<i>Otherwise.</i>
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(b) Number treated otherwise, e.g. in clinics or outpatient departments .....	2	107
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## GROUP 5.—CHILD GUIDANCE TREATMENT.

	<i>Number of cases treated</i>	<i>In the Authority's Child Guidance Clinics.</i>	<i>Elsewhere.</i>
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Number of pupils treated at Child Guidance Clinics .....	—	20
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## GROUP 6.—SPEECH THERAPY.

	<i>Number of cases treated</i>	<i>by the Authority.</i>	<i>Otherwise.</i>
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Number of pupils treated by Speech Therapists.....	300	—	—
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	<i>Number of cases treated</i>	<i>by the Authority.</i>	<i>Otherwise.</i>
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## GROUP 7.—OTHER TREATMENT GIVEN.

(a) Miscellaneous minor ailments .....	991	80
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## (b) (i) INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Diphtheria .....	—	2
do. (Suspected) .....	—	5
Dysentery .....	—	2
Erysipelas .....	—	1
Food Poisoning .....	—	1
Influenza .....	—	1
Measles .....	—	2
Parotitis .....	—	2
Pneumonia .....	—	16
Poliomyelitis .....	—	11
do. (Suspected) .....	—	4
Pyrexia .....	—	2
Scarlet Fever .....	—	31
 Total .....	—	80

(b) (ii) TUBERCULOSIS .....	—	181
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Number of cases treated  
by the  
Authority.      Otherwise.

## (b) (iii) OTHER DEFECTS.

Albuminuria .....	—	2
Anaemia .....	192	1
Appendicitis .....	—	78
Asthma .....	—	2
Bronchial fistula .....	—	1
Bronchiectasis .....	—	1
Bronchitis .....	—	3
Cerebral tumour .....	—	1
Cervical glands enlarged .....	20	3
Chorea .....	—	2
Epilepsy .....	3	2
Epistaxis .....	—	1
Gastro-enteritis .....	—	1
Haematemesis .....	—	1
Haemoptysis .....	—	1
Heart diseases .....	1	9
Hydrocele .....	—	1
Hypertension .....	—	1
Inguinal hernia .....	—	23
Lipoma (knee) .....	—	2
Lymphocytic meningitis .....	—	1
Melanoma .....	—	2
Meningitis .....	—	6
Mesenteric lymphadenitis .....	—	2
Mononucleosis .....	—	1
Nephritis .....	—	6
Nervous System (other) .....	10	—
Obesity .....	—	1
Orchitis .....	—	1
Osgood Schlatter's Disease .....	—	1
Osteitis .....	—	1
Osteomyelitis .....	—	1
Perthes disease .....	—	1
Pleurisy .....	—	4
Phimosis .....	—	12
Rheumatism .....	—	1
Sinusitis .....	—	4
Specific (Congenital) .....	—	8
Stomatitis .....	—	1
Synovitis .....	—	1
Testis, ectopic .....	—	3
Torticollis .....	—	3

Yellow atrophy .....	—	1
Observation .....	—	20
	—	—
Total .....	226	218
	—	—
Grand Total .....	1,217	559
	—	—

Table V.—Dental Inspection and Treatment.

